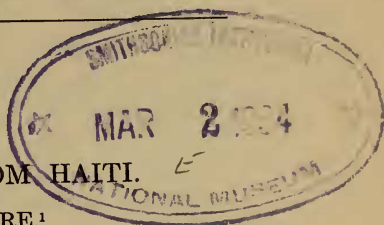


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

NEW RACES OF BIRDS FROM HAITI.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.¹

The races characterized in the following paragraphs have been identified in the collections of the United States National Museum during studies of the extensive collections from Haiti and the Dominican Republic in that institution. Types of both species were collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

In connection with this paper I am indebted to Dr. Witmer Stone of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia for the privilege of examining a honey-creeper from Tortue Island collected by Mr. James Bond.

***Dulus dominicus oviedo*, subsp. nov.**

Characters.—Similar to *Dulus dominicus dominicus* (Linnaeus)² but grayer brown, less olive above; rump and upper tail-coverts less extensively washed with greenish; averaging somewhat larger, with heavier bill.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. Cat. No. 278751, male, in somewhat worn plumage, collected at Pikmi, Gonave Island, Haiti, July 5, 1920, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Back and scapulars between olive brown and buffy brown; hind-neck grayish olive, with obscure shaft streaks similar in color to the back; crown dull clove brown, the feathers margined faintly with grayish olive; auricular region dull blackish; rump and upper tail-coverts citrine drab; rectrices blackish brown, margined basally with grape green; primaries and secondaries blackish brown, margined externally, especially on the secondaries, with grape green; wing-coverts fuscous, margined very faintly with whitish; under surface of body dull white, with a very faint cast of yellowish buff on abdomen and flanks, streaked broadly and sharply with clove brown, the streaks being broadest on breast and sides, and becoming obsolete on abdomen; under wing-coverts ivory yellow lined with clove brown; edge of wing whitish streaked with clove

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²*Tanagra dominicus* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1766, p. 316. ("Dominica"=Hispaniola.)

brown; under surface of flight feathers on inner margins edged with dull white. Upper mandible buffy brown, lower deep olive-buff; tarsus slate color; toes blackish slate (from dried skin).

Measurements (in millimeters).—Four males, wing 90.4–92.2 (91.1), tail 72.3–80.7 (75.5), culmen from base 15.6–16.8 (16.2), tarsus 21.0–23.1 (22.3).

Three females, wing 88.3–94.1 (90.9), tail 72.0–74.8 (73.0), culmen from base, 16.2–17.3 (16.9), tarsus 22.1–24.1 (22.9).

Type, male, wing 91.2, tail 75.3, culmen from base 16.1, tarsus 22.6.

Range.—Gonave Island, western Haiti.

Remarks.—This form is described from seven skins secured July 5, 1920, at Pikmi, a village on the southeastern shore of Gonave Island. The series is quite uniform in difference from an extensive set of specimens from various parts of the main island.

For comparison the following measurement of birds from Hispaniola proper (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) are offered:

Males, 17 specimens, wing 82.3–89.8 (86.3), tail 65.6–77.0 (69.8), culmen from base 13.5–16.5 (15.1), tarsus 20.3–24.4 (22.3).

Females, 15 specimens, wing 83.4–90.0 (86.8), tail 63.5–77.4 (68.3), culmen from base 13.7–16.0 (15.0), tarsus 20.2–23.5 (22.2).

It will be observed that the bird of Gonave Island averages appreciably larger in all measurements except the tarsus. Though occasional individuals from the main island may be as large as Gonave specimens this is not usual.

This race is named in honor of Capitán Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo y Valdés, first among the early historians of the New World, who in his *Historia General y Natural de las Indias*, begun in 1535, gave to the world many observations on natural history, particularly from Hispaniola, where he resided for years. His account of the *Paxaro comunero* as he termed the palm-chat is highly entertaining.

Coereba bananivora nectarea, subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Coereba bananivora bananivora* (Gmelin)¹ but throat and foreneck decidedly darker gray.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. Cat. No. 250608, male in fresh plumage, collected on Tortue Island, Haiti, February 1, 1917, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Above sooty black with a very faint tinge of olive; superciliary line white, extended back to sides of nape; rump lemon yellow; a white spot on outer webs of sixth to eighth primaries, and a narrow white edging on outer webs of sixth to ninth primaries; throat and foreneck dark mouse gray; breast and upper abdomen lemon chrome; lower abdomen and under tail coverts dull white; sides and flanks vetiver green; edge of wing lemon yellow; under wing coverts white. Bill black; tarsus and toes blackish slate (from dried skin).

¹*Motacilla bananivora* Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.*, vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 951. ("Insulae S. Dominici"=Hispaniola.)

Measurements (in millimeters).—Two males, wing 58.0¹–58.5 (58.3); tail 33.9¹–35.3 (34.6); culmen from base 12.5–13.0¹ (12.8); tarsus 17.09 17.2¹ (17.1).

Range.—Tortue Island, Haiti.

Remarks.—In addition to two skins in the National Museum I have examined a third in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia collected March 23, 1928, by James Bond. All three differ appreciably in darker throat from a considerable series seen from Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

¹Type.